



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Connects Chicagoland Firms with Over 15 Area Lenders in One Day at Navy Pier

SBA Illinois District Office Hosts Lender Matchmaking and Award Luncheon for Local Entrepreneurs—Online Registration Open to the Public

CHICAGO – The U.S. Small Business Administration’s Illinois District Office will celebrate the spirit of entrepreneurship on Tuesday, June 29 at the **47th Annual Illinois Small Business Week, Awards, Lender Matchmaking, and Business Expo**. The event begins at 8:00 AM and will take place at Chicago’s Navy Pier (600 East Grand Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611).

By registering online, small businesses can schedule up to three pre-arranged appointments with national, regional, community and other lenders and discover an array of small business financing options and opportunities. The **Expo** will feature face to face meetings with representatives from Federal Government agencies, including GSA, VA, Navy Great Lakes, Army Corps of Engineers and DOE, as well as from the Illinois Tollway Authority and the City of Chicago Department of Procurement Services.

Throughout the day, workshops will feature expert panels addressing today’s critical small business issues, and an Award Luncheon honoring local award winners for their impact in the small business community.

Small businesses can register online at <https://www.bmmreg.com/SBASmallBusinessWeek> where additional information is available.

“This year’s Small Business Week Award Winners are commended for their dedication to driving economic, growth and job creation in Illinois. We also recognize the need to continue providing entrepreneurs around the State with tools to grow a successful small business,” said SBA Illinois District Director Judith Roussel. “In one full day, the **Business Expo** will provide small businesses with these fundamental tools—including direct and full access to area lenders, counseling and training.”

This year’s Illinois Small Business Week Awardees include Illinois Small Business Person of the Year—**Warner Cruz President, J.C. Restoration, Inc.**; Small Business Exporter of the Year—**Chris Helle, Vice President of Sawmill Hydraulics, Inc.**; Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year—**Paul A. Renzaglia, General Manager of Alto Vineyards, Ltd.**, Minority Small Business Champion of the Year—**Monica Billinger, Manager of Corporate Supplier Diversity for Health Care Service Corporation** and Women in Business Champion of the Year—**Angelika Coghlan, President of Catwalk Consulting**.

In addition to these awards, the SBA will announce the winner of the **Illinois Choice Award**. This prestigious award is given each year to an individual, singularly recognized for their life’s avocation of fostering business and economic development.

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47th Annual Illinois Small Business Week Awards Event Activities:

LENDER MATCHMAKING

Register for one-on-one appointments with lenders seeking to do business with creditworthy small businesses. Sign up for at least 3 pre-arranged appointments with lenders of your choice. Choose from an array of national, regional and community banks and other lenders that will be available to explore financing options and opportunities with you. Matchmaking appointments will be scheduled in 15 minute increments from 8:00 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. and then again from 1:40 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

AWARDS LUNCHEON

The Small Business Awards Luncheon will be held in Navy Pier's Grand Ballroom from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. You can also register and purchase Luncheon tickets on-line.

BUSINESS EXPO

The Small Business Expo will feature resource and technical assistance partners that will provide valuable information to help you start and/or operate your small business. The Expo will also feature workshops on capital access and opportunities, seeking venture capital, marketing versus stalking, and reinventing your company through social networking.

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